Chief Justice and other Heads of Departments and Offices and several non-official gentlemen.

IV. The Dewan opened the Assembly with the following

ADDRESS.

PRELIMINARY.

"Gentlemen,

By command of His Highness the Maha Raja, I have the pleasure to welcome you to the Fourteenth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Copies of the Administration Report for 1092 M. E., will, as usual, be placed in your hands, from which you will learn in detail how the work of administration of the State was conducted during the year.

2. **Shashtyabdapurti.**—I cannot commence my address more appropriately than by a reference to the most important event of 1917 for Travancore, the *Shashtyabdapurti* of His Highness the Maha Raja. This auspicious event, which took place on the 24th September last, was celebrated with becoming splendour and enthusiasm in every town and village throughout the State and even in such distant countries as Malaysia. The warm tribute of loyalty and devotion which found expression on that happy day is a striking manifestation of the deep attachment of the people of Travancore to their beloved Ruler. "I assure you", said His Highness the Maha Raja in concluding his reply to the people's address presented on that memorable occasion, "that my greatest happiness lies in the welfare of my people". These inspiring words, so characteristically expressed, are still ringing in our ears and furnish the keynote to the remarkable hold which His Highness has over the hearts of his subjects. Let us avail ourselves of the opportunity afforded to us by this Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly to once again send forth, in reverent gratitude, our fervent prayers to the Almighty for His Highness' long life, health and happiness.

3. **The War.**—The end of the terrible war is not yet in sight, though there are ample indications of the triumph of British righteousness over Prussian brute force. His Highness the Maha Raja has made a further contribution of Bh. Rs. 1,00,000 to the Madras War Fund and the State has invested Bh. Rs. 15,00,000 in the Government of India War Bonds of 1920. Following the noble example set by His Highness, His Highness' subjects have also contributed towards the Indian War Loan to the best of their capacity. The monthly contribution of His Highness the Maha Raja and the officers of the State towards the maintenance of 'Madras', the hospital ship whose invaluable services in connection with war relief are so well-known, is being continued. As in 1915, local exhibits were collected and forwarded for the Madras Exhibition of Indian Arts and Industries, held in December 1917 under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Governor for financing this hospital ship. His Highness the Maha Raja has further promised to afford to the Paramount Power every assistance in securing recruits from Travancore for the Indian Army, and with this object, Mr. O. M. Cheriyan, Inspector of Vernacular Schools, Northern Range, has been appointed District Assistant Recruiting Officer for Travancore. As loyal and patriotic subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja and as the representatives of the people in this Assembly, I earnestly invite your attention to the notification on the subject recently published in the Gazette and request your cordial co-operation with Mr. Cheriyan in his onerous task. Subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja who enlist in the combatant ranks of the Indian Army will be given special facilities in the matter of the registry of *puduval* lands and a set of rules on the subject has been recently issued.

4. **Personnel.**—Since the last Session of the Assembly there have been some notable changes in the higher ranks of the public service. Mr. A. M. Muthunayagam Pillai, Puisne Judge of the High Court, retired at the commencement of 1093, after an honourable official career. Mr. K. Narayana Menon, Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate, and Mr. K. Sankara Pillai, District and Sessions Judge, have

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly